

## Mahoney Continues Fight for Everglades and Indian Street Bridge

Powerful Appropriations Chairman tours key Treasure Coast Projects

(March 26, 2008)

(Palm City, FL) - Congressman Tim Mahoney (FL-16) and House Appropriations Chairman Congressman Dave Obey (WI-7) toured key public safety and Everglades restoration projects including the Indian River Lagoon today. The purpose of the trip was to give Obey a first hand look at projects that have been ignored by the Bush Administration that Mahoney believes are critical for the public safety and economic health of the Treasure Coast. Mahoney's tour will feature the critical repairs needed by the Lake Okeechobee Dike and the importance of the the Indian Street Bridge. Both projects are important to protecting the public's safety in the event of a hurricane. Mahoney will also show Obey the Indian River Lagoon project, which he, Congressman Hastings and Senator Nelson had \$1.6 billion authorized in last year's passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

"It is my job to make sure my colleagues in Congress understand the importance of the Indian River Lagoon and the Indian Street Bridge to the economic health and public safety of the Treasure Coast," said Congressman Mahoney. "Chairman Obey's visit Martin County demonstrates that Democratic House leadership is committed to reversing eight years of the Bush Administration's neglect for key environmental and transportation projects.

"Water and infrastructure are national priorities and I'm glad to be here today to see these," said Chairman Obey. "However, it's unfortunate that the reality is President Bush's budget underfunds the Army Corps projects by \$851 million this year."

Last year, Congressman Mahoney fought for both the Indian River Lagoon and Indian Street Bridge projects. Congressman Mahoney helped Congress override President Bush's veto of WRDA, which authorizes \$1.82 billion for Everglades Restoration and \$1.5 million for the Herbert Hoover Dike. Congressman Mahoney also worked with House

Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey and Subcommittee Chairman John Olver to secure nearly \$1 million for the Indian Street Bridge project.

Representative Obey serves as the Chairman on the House Appropriations Committee, which makes funding decisions on every program in the federal budget.

Obey, who as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, has been a champion of the environment and national investment in transportation and infrastructure, and has led the efforts to balance national security needs with health care, infrastructure and education.

Martin County officials, local Chamber of Commerce members, environmentalists, and residents from the Treasure Coast attended the press conference and reception. Those in attendance spoke for the people of Martin County in conveying that these projects are critical to the local economy and preserving a national treasure.

"We are thankful for Congressman Mahoney's interest in projects that will have an immediate effect on both our local businesses and our quality of life. I look forward to working with him on efforts to garner federal funding for the Indian Street Bridge and WRDA projects that will improve the Northern Everglades and the St. Lucie River," said Toby Overdorf, Past President of the Palm City Chamber of Commerce.

"We are very appreciative that Congressman Mahoney recognizes the importance of fighting for funding for the Indian River Lagoon component of CERP. I look forward to continue working with him on making this funding a reality," said Leon Abood, Chairman of the St. Lucie Rivers Coalition.

For more information on Congressman Mahoney's work on WRDA or the Indian Street Bridge, please visit:  
[www.mahoney.house.gov](http://www.mahoney.house.gov)

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